

Projected Future Changes in the Equatorial Wave Spectrum in CMIP6

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2 **Spectrum in CMIP6**

3 **Hagar Bartana · Chaim I. Garfinkel ·**
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7 **Abstract** The simulation of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) and con-
8 vectively coupled equatorial waves (CCEWs) is considered in 13 state-of-
9 the-art models from phase 6 of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project
10 (CMIP6). We use frequency-wavenumber power spectra of the models and ob-
11 servations for Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) and zonal winds at 250
12 hPa (U250), and consider the historical simulations and end of 21st century
13 projections for the SSP245 and SSP585 scenarios.

14 The models simulate a spectrum quantitatively resembling that observed,
15 though systematic biases exist. MJO and Kelvin waves (KW) are mostly un-
16 derestimated, while equatorial Rossby waves (ER) are overestimated. Most
17 models project a future increase in power spectra for the MJO, while nearly
18 all project a robust increase for KW and weaker power values for most other
19 wavenumber-frequency combinations, including higher wavenumber ER. In ad-
20 dition to strengthening, KW also shift toward higher phase speeds (or equiv-
21 alent depths). Models with a more realistic MJO in their control climate tend
22 to simulate a stronger future intensification.

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23 **Keywords** Convectively coupled equatorial waves · CMIP · Kelvin waves ·
24 Madden Julian Oscillation · Tropical spectrum

25 1 Introduction

26 The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is the dominant mode of intraseasonal
27 (1-3 months) variability in the tropical atmosphere (Le et al, 2021; Jiang et al,
28 2020; Ahn et al, 2017; Hung et al, 2013; Zhang, 2005; Madden and Julian,
29 1972). It is characterized by eastward-propagating, planetary-scale envelopes
30 of convective cloud clusters that are tightly coupled with the large-scale wind
31 field. Its large spatial extent and low frequency (zonal wavenumbers 1-3 and
32 30-90 days period) distinguishes it from convectively coupled equatorial waves
33 (CCEWs) and other disturbances (Le et al, 2021; Ahn et al, 2020; Jiang et al,
34 2020; Ahn et al, 2017; Hung et al, 2013).

35 CCEWs are manifested as equatorially trapped, zonally propagating tropi-
36 cal circulations, and comprise a non-negligible fraction of sub-monthly tropical
37 dynamical and convective variability. The CCEWs include Kelvin waves (KW),
38 equatorial Rossby (ER), mixed Rossby-gravity (MRG), eastward inertio-gravity
39 (EIG), and westward inertio-gravity (WIG) waves (Huang et al, 2013; Hung
40 et al, 2013; Seo et al, 2012; Kiladis et al, 2009; Wheeler and Kiladis, 1999).

41 The MJO and CCEWs interact with a wide range of tropical weather and
42 climate phenomena, including monsoonal systems, tropical cyclone activity,
43 and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (Le et al, 2021; Ahn et al, 2017; Hung
44 et al, 2013). Furthermore, they also exhibit teleconnections to the extratropics,
45 affecting regional hydroclimate, and influencing weather and climate phenom-
46 ena in the mid-latitude and high-latitude regions (Le et al, 2021; Ahn et al,
47 2020; Schwartz and Garfinkel, 2020; Raghavendra et al, 2019; Ahn et al, 2017;
48 Hung et al, 2013; Yoo et al, 2012). Therefore, they play an important role in
49 the global climate system, and are a key source of predictability for extended-
50 range forecasts in both the tropics and extratropics (Rao et al, 2021, 2020,
51 2019; Jiang et al, 2020; Raghavendra et al, 2019; Hung et al, 2013; Kiladis
52 et al, 2009; Zhang, 2005).

53 The ability of state-of-the-art coupled general circulation models to accu-
54 rately capture the MJO's magnitude, location, and dynamics is of vital im-
55 portance for subseasonal-to-seasonal prediction (Le et al, 2021; Raghavendra
56 et al, 2019; Jiang et al, 2020; Vitart, 2017; Stan et al, 2022). A wide range
57 of factors, for example - air-sea coupling, vertical heating profile and cloud
58 parameterization - have been shown to influence the strength of the MJO and
59 CCEWs in models (Le et al, 2021; Ahn et al, 2020, 2017; Hung et al, 2013;
60 Wang and Li, 2017; Raghavendra et al, 2019; Seo et al, 2012; Jiang et al, 2015;
61 Huang et al, 2013; Jiang et al, 2020; Lin et al, 2006).

62 Despite the importance of the MJO, very few models from earlier phases,
63 including phase 5 of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP), were
64 able to simulate a realistic MJO (Raghavendra et al, 2019; Lin et al, 2006). Al-
65 though only a few studies have investigated the performance of CMIP6 models

66 in capturing CCEWs and the MJO so far, there seems to be a robust improve-
67 ment in the representation of MJO in the CMIP6 models. Specifically, CMIP6
68 models with an improved representation of convection show significantly bet-
69 ter results (Ahn et al, 2020). Nevertheless, they still tend to underestimate
70 the variability contributed by the MJO (Le et al, 2021; Ahn et al, 2020),
71 even as they exhibit reasonable spectral power or total variance within the
72 intraseasonal timescales as compared to observations.

73 While acknowledging the limitations of the models, they allow us a glimpse
74 of future change possibilities. Previous work predicts an intensification of the
75 MJO and KW, more tropical precipitation, and more intense convection, in
76 response to increased greenhouse gas concentrations (Bui and Maloney, 2019;
77 Maloney et al, 2019; Raghavendra et al, 2019; Chang et al, 2015). However, the
78 intensification of MJO related zonal wind anomalies in the upper troposphere
79 is unclear (Maloney et al, 2019), perhaps because the overall convective mass
80 flux is expected to weaken, even as precipitation strengthens (Allan et al, 2020;
81 Held and Soden, 2006). These upper tropospheric wind anomalies are of crucial
82 importance for the upper level divergence anomalies that force teleconnections
83 (Seo and Lee, 2017). By the end of the century the MJO might have less
84 influence on extratropical phenomena in some regions (Bui and Maloney, 2019;
85 Chang et al, 2015), while the influence in others such as the North Atlantic
86 might be stronger (Samarasinghe et al, 2021).

87 In this study, we analyze the ability of 13 CMIP6 models to represent
88 the MJO and CCEWs in the current climate, and then analyze their future
89 projections. We specifically focus on the KW and ER, as they are strongly
90 associated with the MJO and have strong mutual influence.

91 Section 2 will describe the data and methods. The results (section 3) are
92 divided into two subsections: analysis of historical biases, and an analysis of
93 future assessments. Discussion and conclusions are presented in section 4.

94 **2 Data and Methods**

95 **2.1 Data**

96 Thirteen CMIP6 models are analyzed in this study, chosen based on the avail-
97 ability of daily data for outgoing long wave radiation (OLR) and zonal winds at
98 250 hPa (U250) for both the historical scenario and the two future scenarios:
99 SSP245 and SSP585. The SSP585 scenario includes an additional radiative
100 forcing of 8.5 W/m^2 by the year 2099 while the SSP245 scenario includes
101 an additional radiative forcing of 4.5 W/m^2 by the year 2099 (Meinshausen
102 et al, 2020). Historical simulations are compared to observational data ac-
103 cording to the relevant parameter: OLR updated from NOAA (Liebmann
104 and Smith, 1996) and U250 from ERA5 (Hersbach et al, 2020). The years
105 used for the historical data are 1979-2009, and years used for future assess-
106 ments are 2069-2099. The OLR observational data has enhanced power around
107 $(k, \omega) = (14, 0.1)$ that is likely an artifact of the sampling of the polar-orbiting

Table 1: Data products used

	data source	reference
obs.	NOAA OLR	Liebmann and Smith (1996)
	ERA-5	Hersbach et al (2020)
CMIP6	BCC-CSM2-MR	Wu et al (2019)
	CESM2	Danabasoglu et al (2020)
	CNRM-CM6-1	Voltaire et al (2019)
	CNRM-ESM2-1	S��ferian et al (2019)
	EC-Earth3	D��scher et al (2021)
	FGOALS-g3	Li et al (2020)
	GFDL-CM4	Dunne et al (2020)
	INM-CM4-8	Volodin et al (2017)
	INM-CM5-0	Volodin et al (2017)
	MIROC6	Tatebe et al (2019)
	MPI-ESM1-2-HR	M��ller et al (2018)
	MPI-ESM1-2-LR	Mauritsen et al (2019)
	UKESM1-0-LL	Sellar et al (2019)

Table 1 The data sources used in this study.

108 satellites (Wheeler and Kiladis, 1999). This area is not associated with either
 109 the MJO or any of the CCEWs so we ignore it. Table 1 summarizes the data
 110 products used. Further information about the models can be found in Online
 111 Resource 1.

112 We focus on OLR and U250 for two reasons. OLR allows us to compare
 113 to previous work using earlier CMIP generations and also to observations (Le
 114 et al, 2021; Raghavendra et al, 2019). We focus also on U250 because of its
 115 relationship with upper level divergence. Upper level divergence and divergent
 116 outflow lead to teleconnections in mid-latitudes (Sardeshmukh and Hoskins,
 117 1988; Hoskins and Karoly, 1981), and hence an increase, say, in MJO activity
 118 of U250 may be expected to lead to stronger or more frequent teleconnections.
 119 Exploring this possibility is left for future work, and in particular we note the
 120 recent study of Jenney et al (2021) who find that changes in the subtropical
 121 mean state may be more important than changes in the MJO itself for future
 122 changes in MJO teleconnections.

123 2.2 Methods

124 We use the open-source wkSpaceTime routine of the NCAR Command Lan-
 125 guage, which implements the analysis described in Wheeler and Kiladis (1999)
 126 without the tropical depression filter used in Kiladis et al (2009). The results of
 127 the following sections were obtained using a temporal window of 96 days with
 128 an overlap of 10 days between consecutive windows, and a meridional window
 129 of $15^\circ S - 15^\circ N$. We overlay on the spectra the theoretical dispersion relations
 130 obtained by Matsuno (1966) for equivalent depths of 10m, 30m and 90m, as
 131 differences between the β plane solutions of Matsuno and the exact spherical
 132 solutions are small for the parameter regime of Earth’s tropics (Garfinkel et al,
 133 2017; Paldor, 2015; Paldor et al, 2013).

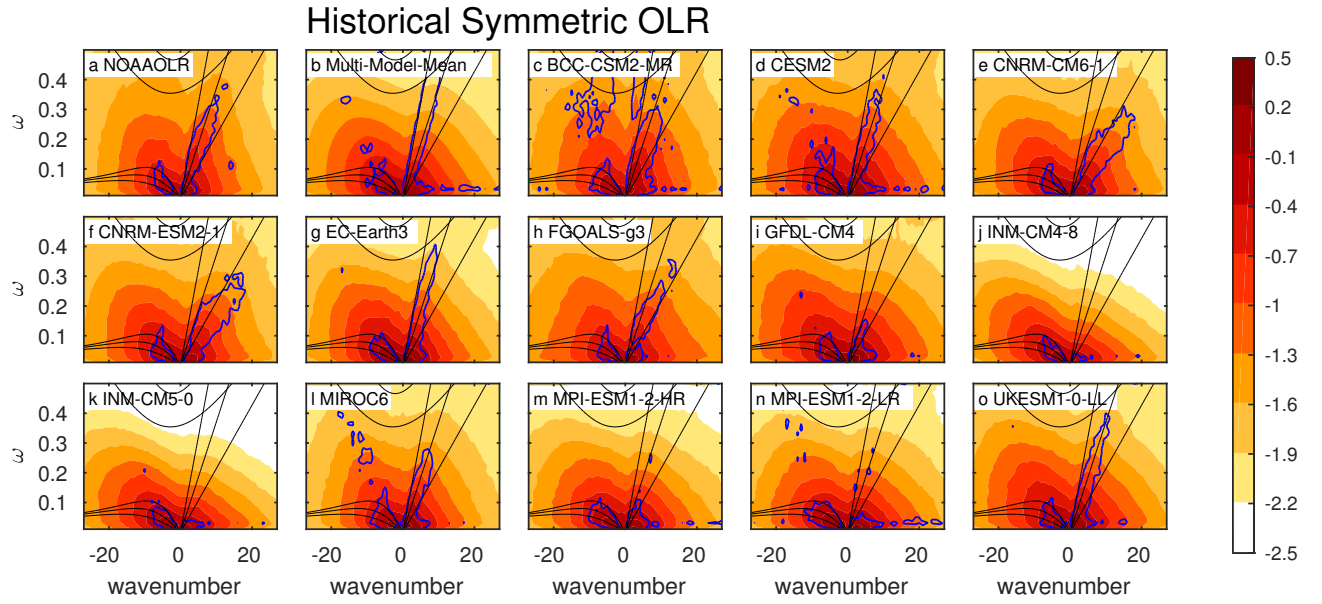


Fig. 1 \log_{10} of the ω - k power spectra of the symmetric component of raw OLR $(W/m^2)^2 \cdot s$ data for all models and observations: (a) OLR observations, (b) MMM, and (c-o) individual models. Contour interval is 0.3. Black lines are the dispersion curves of equatorial waves for equivalent depths of 10m, 30m and 90m. A blue contour indicates where the power exceeds the background by 20%.

134 All data are processed and presented using a wavenumber-frequency (ω -
 135 k) power spectrum of the different variables and scenarios for each model,
 136 for the multi-model mean (hereafter MMM), and for the observational data.
 137 All figures show the logarithms to base 10 of the spectrum (accordingly, all
 138 figures showing differences between spectra correspond to the \log_{10} of the
 139 ratio). For each spectrum, the total power is also calculated and included in
 140 Table 2. After analyzing the historical biases and the relationship between
 141 biases in U250 and in OLR, we analyze the future projections. We focus on
 142 the symmetric component of the spectrum while the ω - k spectra of the anti-
 143 symmetric component are included in Online Resource 2.

144 3 Changes in Tropical Spectrum

145 3.1 Historical Bias

146 Figure 1 shows the ω - k power spectra of the symmetric component of OLR in
 147 the historical simulations. Blue contours indicate regions in which the power
 148 exceeds the background spectrum by at least 20%, hence showing the power in
 149 the MJO and CCEWs that can be distinguished from the background turbu-

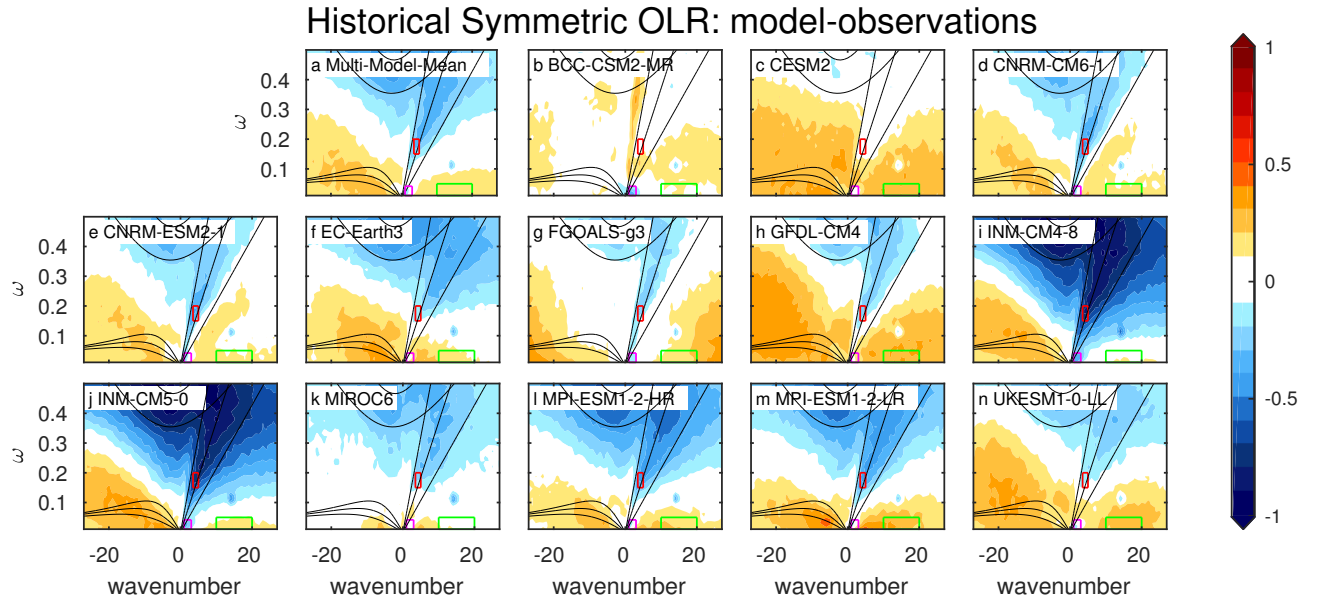


Fig. 2 Difference in the ω - k power spectra (log-scaled) of the symmetric component of raw OLR (W/m^2)² · s : (a) MMM, and (b-o) individual models. Contour interval is 0.1. Black lines are the dispersion curves of equatorial waves for equivalent depths of 10m, 30m and 90m. Rectangles mark the areas for the correlation graphs shown later: green marks areas without a theoretical dry wave ($10 \leq k \leq 20$, $20 \leq T \leq 96$ days), magenta marks ω - k combinations in the vicinity of the MJO ($1 \leq k \leq 3$, $24 \leq T \leq 96$ days) and red marks ω - k combinations in the vicinity of the KW ($3.5 \leq k \leq 5$, $3.5 \leq T \leq 7$ days).

150 lent red-noise (Garfinkel et al, 2021), and such a ratio is statistically significant
 151 at the 95% level even in the relatively short observational record (Shamir et al,
 152 2021). Observations clearly show power exceeding the background spectrum
 153 for ω - k combinations associated with the MJO, KW and lower wavenumber
 154 ER ($k \leq 8$), and so do many of the models. The MMM shows a generally
 155 good representation of the MJO, KW and ER, as compared to observations,
 156 as represented by the blue contour. The KW is simulated in most models,
 157 though not all models capture a realistic phase speed: in some models the KW
 158 propagates too slowly (e.g. both CNRM and FGOALS-g3) while in others it
 159 propagates too fast (e.g. EC-Earth3). If all of the individual model responses
 160 are averaged together to form the MMM, the KW phase speed is also too fast.

161 The fidelity of the MMM and of each model is more easily visualized by
 162 computing the bias with respect to observations, shown in Figure 2 (note that
 163 the bias is defined here as the difference between the \log_{10} of the power spec-
 164 tra, i.e. the \log_{10} of the ratio of modeled to observed power). BCC-CSM2-MR
 165 captures the spectrum most accurately. The remaining models, as well as the
 166 MMM, generally overestimate low frequencies except for low wavenumbers,
 167 and underestimate higher frequencies. The magnitude of the bias differs be-

		Total power					
model no.	model name	OLR bias	U250 bias	OLR SSP245	OLR SSP585	U250 SSP245	U250 SSP585
a	BCC-CSM2-MR	135.6	507.6	-18.5	-76.1	-119.8	-222.4
b	CESM2	346.3	224.4	22.1	-12.2	-77.9	-146.3
c	CNRM-CM6-1	-68.4	55.9	20.0	11.3	-110.2	-174.3
d	CNRM-ESM2-1	-51.5	39.7	33.7	31.5	-101.0	-159.8
e	EC-Earth3	-239.9	-242.2	74.3	155.2	2.3	-25.0
f	FGOALS-g3	53.6	-167.9	-16.7	-47.2	-107.2	-186.6
g	GFDL-CM4	216.2	-30.1	200.3	241.9	-27.5	-72.2
h	INM-CM4-8	-927.0	-770.8	-48.1	-93.2	-60.7	-96.0
i	INM-CM5-0	-885.0	-739.3	-66.6	-142.4	-27.5	-51.5
j	MIROC6	-327.1	35.8	-38.2	-59.9	-60.9	-89.5
k	MPI-ESM1-2-HR	-462.7	-8.2	14.2	-16.5	-70.8	-108.9
l	MPI-ESM1-2-LR	-339.2	0.4	-0.9	-20.4	-64.2	-103.1
m	UKESM1-0-LL	33.2	207.4	-74.4	-171.1	-155.1	-265.1
	MMM	-193.5	-21.9	7.8	-15.3	-75.4	-130.8

Table 2 Summary of total power of each model and MMM for OLR and U250: for bias and for the differences between future projections and historical assessments.

168 tween the models, and is particularly pronounced for the INM models (i.e.,
169 INM-CM4-8 and INM-CM5-0).

170 Similar to CMIP5, many models have a too-weak MJO bias, though in Fig-
171 ure 2 this bias is most notable in four models: BCC-CSM2-MR, FGOALS-g3,
172 INM-CM4-8, INM-CM5-0. While the other models may simulate a reasonable
173 amount of power for ω - k values associated with the MJO, these other models
174 simulate too much power at low frequencies at other wavenumbers however,
175 and hence the MJO is not as important at accounting for intraseasonal variabil-
176 ity in essentially all (BCC-CSM2-MR the lone exception) models as compared
177 to observations.

178 Biases for KW are even more common. On Figure 1, only two-thirds of
179 the models simulate enhanced power above the background spectrum at ω -
180 k combinations corresponding to the KW, with the INM, GFDL and MPI
181 models struggling most. On Figure 2, we compare to observations rather than
182 each model's background spectrum. Six models are reasonable (BCC-CSM2-
183 MR, CESM2, EC-Earth3, GFDL-CM4, MIROC6 and UKESM1-0-LL), three
184 slightly underestimate KW (CNRM-CM6-1, CNRM-ESM2-1, FGOALS-g3),
185 and the remaining four (INM-CM4-8, INM-CM5-0, MPI-ESM1-2-HR, MPI-
186 ESM1-2-LR) underestimate it by at least a factor of three ($= 10^{0.5}$).

187 In contrast to the MJO and KW, all of the models capture enhanced power
188 for ER compared to each model's background spectrum in Figure 1. When
189 compared to observations (Figure 2), FGOALS-g3 and MIROC6 simulate a
190 realistic amount of ER power, most of the models overestimate it and BCC-
191 CSM2-MR slightly underestimates it at low wavenumbers.

192 Table 2 shows the total power of the models compared to the observations
193 (third column from the left). About half of the models have a negative total
194 bias, while the others have a positive total bias. The absolute value of the
195 total bias is smallest in UKESM1-0-LL, though this is the net of too-strong

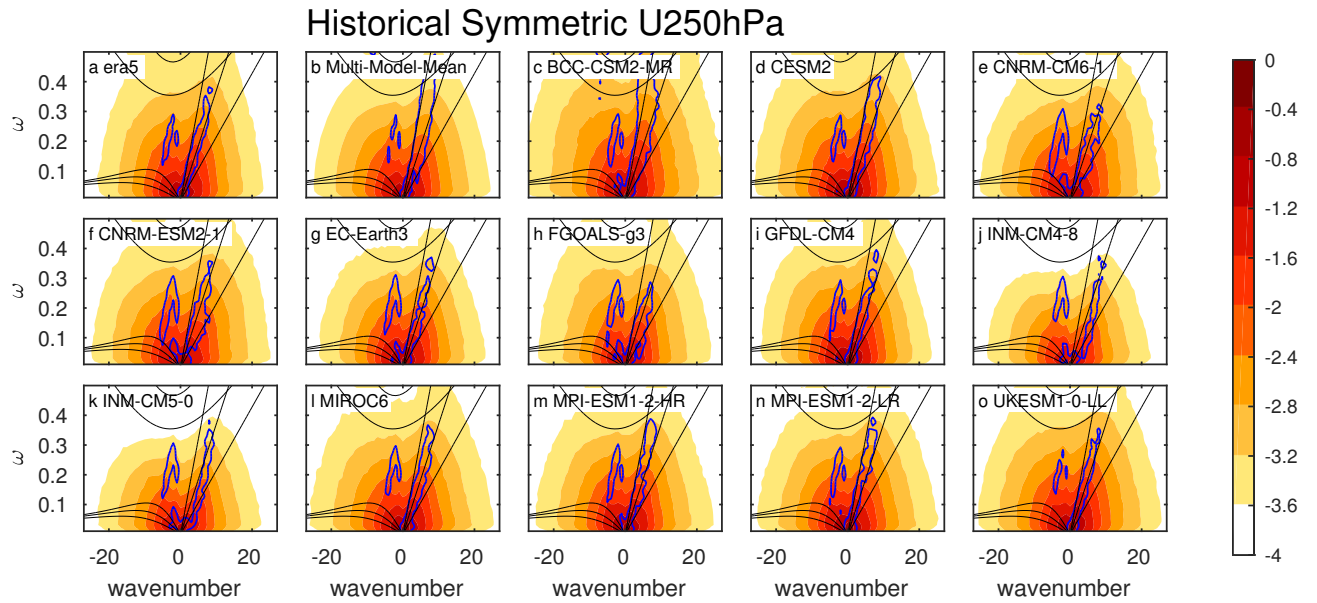


Fig. 3 \log_{10} of the ω - k power spectra of the symmetric component of zonal wind $(m/s)^2 \cdot s$ at 250 hPa for all models and observations: (a) observations, (b) MMM, and (c-o) individual models. Contour interval is 0.4. Black lines are the dispersion curves of equatorial waves for equivalent depths of 10m, 30m and 90m. A blue contour indicates where the power exceeds the background by 35%.

196 low frequency and too-weak high frequency variability. The improvement of
 197 the OLR spectrum as compared to CMIP3 and CMIP5 models is discussed in
 198 later sections.

199 We now switch our focus to the U250 ω - k power spectra in the histor-
 200 ical simulations (Figure 3). Compared to the OLR spectra, the symmetric
 201 component of historical U250 ω - k power spectra is more confined to lower
 202 wavenumbers and frequencies. While the enhanced power in the vicinity of
 203 the KW is clear, MJO and ER are less evident (the conclusion is unchanged if
 204 we lower the threshold for the blue contour on Figure 3, not shown). The power
 205 at negative low wavenumbers and frequencies of approximately 0.1-0.3 corre-
 206 sponds to the external Rossby-Haurwitz waves (Hendon and Wheeler, 2008),
 207 which are not in the scope of this study. Looking at the MMM spectrum, the
 208 total power and also the power associated with the KW is represented fairly
 209 realistically.

210 Looking at the U250 spectrum bias of the models relative to observations
 211 (Figure 4), there is a systematic tendency for too little power at low wavenum-
 212 bers relative to larger wavenumbers, and also too much power at low frequen-
 213 cies and too little at high frequencies. The net effect is that for most models
 214 (the exceptions are BCC-CSM2-MR, CESM2, FGOALS-g3, and GFDL-CM4)
 215 spectrum biases take the form of a triangle. Some individual models also suffer

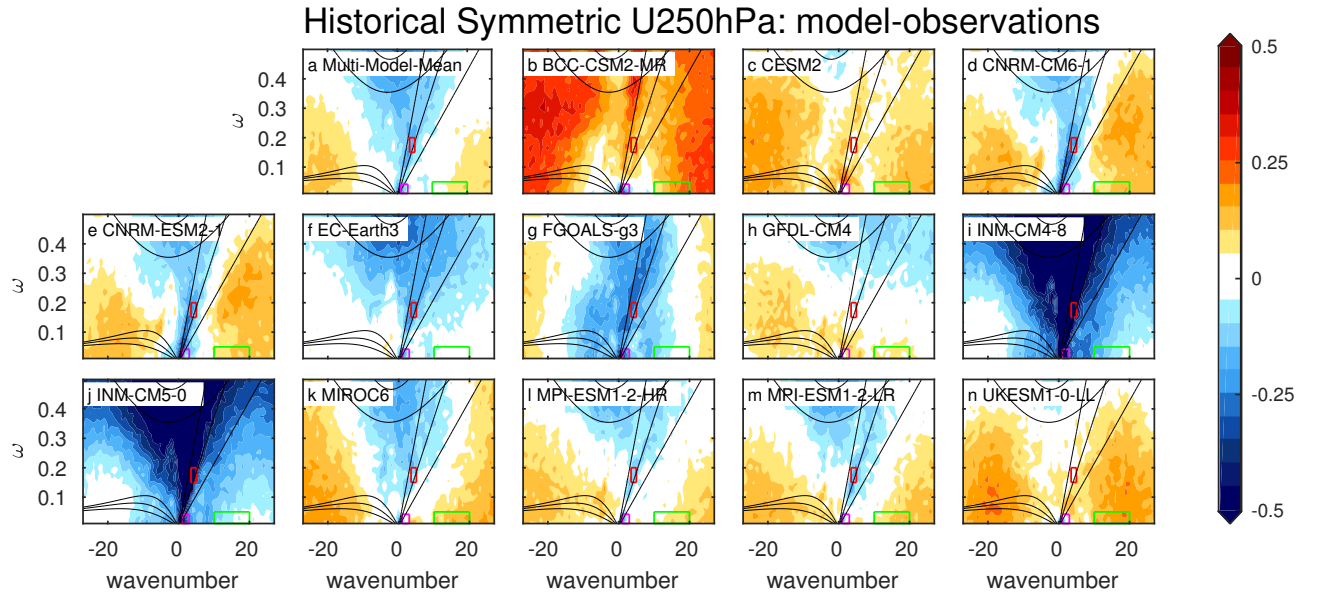


Fig. 4 Difference in the ω - k power spectra (log-scaled) of the symmetric component of raw zonal winds $(m/s)^2 \cdot s$ at 250 hPa: (a) MMM, and (b-o) individual models. Contour interval is 0.05. Black lines are the dispersion curves of equatorial waves for equivalent depths of 10m, 30m and 90m. Rectangles mark the areas for the correlation graphs (Figures 5, 7, 8): green marks areas without a theoretical dry wave ($10 \leq k \leq 20$, $20 \leq T \leq 96$ days), magenta marks ω - k combinations in the vicinity of the MJO ($1 \leq k \leq 3$, $24 \leq T \leq 96$ days) and red marks ω - k combinations in the vicinity of the KW ($3.5 \leq k \leq 5$, $3.5 \leq T \leq 7$ days).

216 from additional biases. BCC-CSM2-MR, CESM2 and UKESM1-0-LL have a
 217 positive bias for most of the spectrum (BCC-CSM2-MR particularly biased),
 218 while the bias of EC-Earth3, FGOALS-g3, INM-CM4-8 and INM-CM5-0 is
 219 mostly negative (INM-CM4-8 and INM-CM5-0 bias values are particularly low
 220 and are an outlier). The sum of the biases for all values of ω and k are lower
 221 however (see Table 2), because the total negative and positive biases within
 222 each spectrum compensate and cancel. Specifically, CNRM-CM6-1, CNRM-
 223 ESM2-1, MIROC6, MPI-ESM1-2-HR and MPI-ESM1-2-LR have a somewhat
 224 similar distribution of negative and positive bias, which is also reflected in the
 225 MMM spectrum. The bias in GFDL-CM4 differs from that in any other model,
 226 and appears to capture too much westward propagation and not enough east-
 227 ward propagation. The main factor for the significant variability among the
 228 models is likely their differing convection schemes (see Online Resource 1).
 229 Another probable factor could be different representations of the background
 230 upper tropospheric winds, which affects tropical wave modes through more
 231 than just a simple Doppler filtering (De-Leon et al, 2022; Roundy, 2020a,b).

232 Most models have a too-weak MJO in U250, similar to the bias in OLR. Six
 233 models slightly underestimate it (BCC-CSM2-MR, CNRM-CM6-1, CNRM-

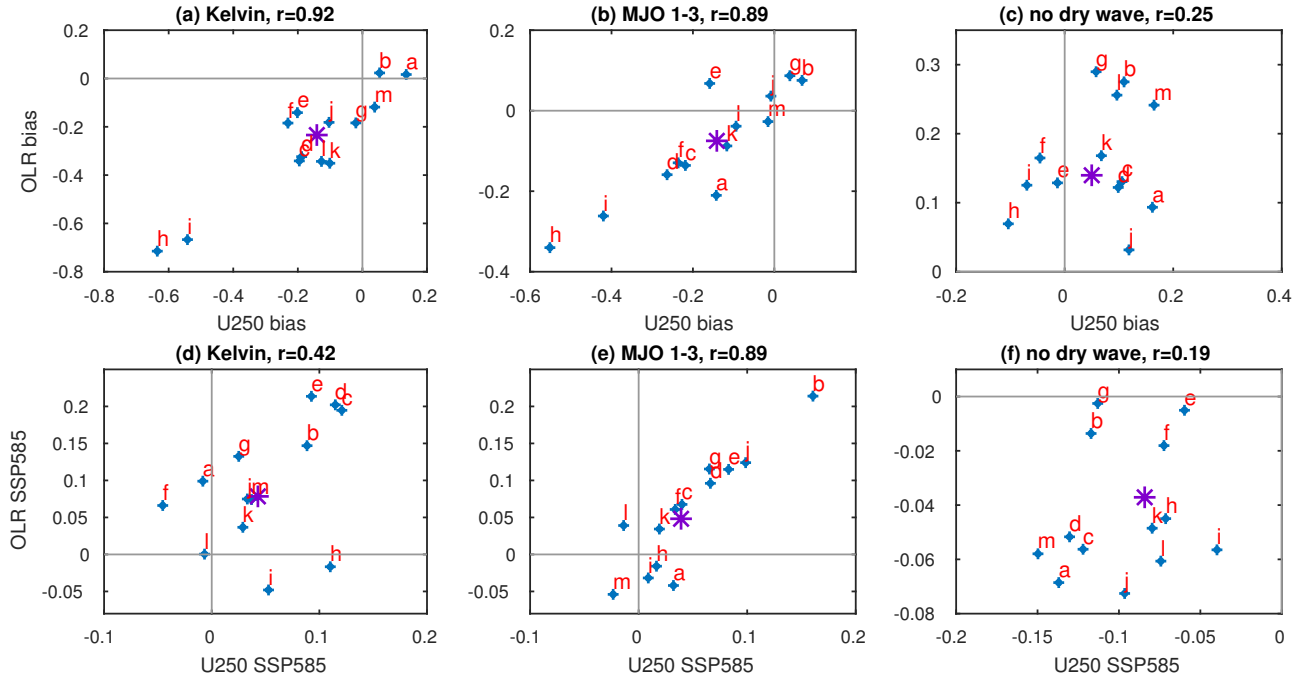


Fig. 5 Across model spread in the power spectra of OLR and zonal winds at 250 hPa in (a-c) historical biases and in (d-f) SSP585. ω - k values: (a,d) KW: $3.5 \leq k \leq 5$, $3.5 \leq T \leq 7$ days; (b,e) MJO: $1 \leq k \leq 3$, $24 \leq T \leq 96$ days; (c,f) no dry wave: $10 \leq k \leq 20$, $20 \leq T \leq 96$ days. See the boxed regions on Figure 2. Letters correspond to the labeling of the models on Table 2, and the purple star is the MMM. The correlation for each panel is indicated in its heading.

234 ESM2-1, EC-Earth3, MPI-ESM1-2-HR, MPI-ESM1-2-LR) and three more (FGOALS-
 235 g3, INM-CM4-8, INM-CM5-0) underestimate it by more than a factor of two
 236 ($= 10^{0.3}$). Note that those three also underestimate the MJO in OLR.

237 In order to better quantify the relationship between biases in U250 and
 238 OLR, we compare the biases in Figure 5a-c, and specifically use the average
 239 spectral-power within the colored rectangles on Figures 2 and 4. They rep-
 240 resent regions of the ω - k spectrum associated with specific phenomena: red
 241 represents KW, magenta represents the MJO and green represents a region,
 242 with no theoretical dry wave (i.e., the background; Garfinkel et al, 2021). The
 243 phenomena are not confined into the boundaries of those areas, but the power
 244 values there are representative. We picked these relatively small regions be-
 245 cause these regions include the wave modes for all of the models we consider.
 246 A broader region would lead to including regions in spectral space outside of
 247 the e.g. KW for at least one specific model. Note that although the KW band
 248 chosen is relatively small, it is more representative than other bands checked
 249 across all of the models (not shown).

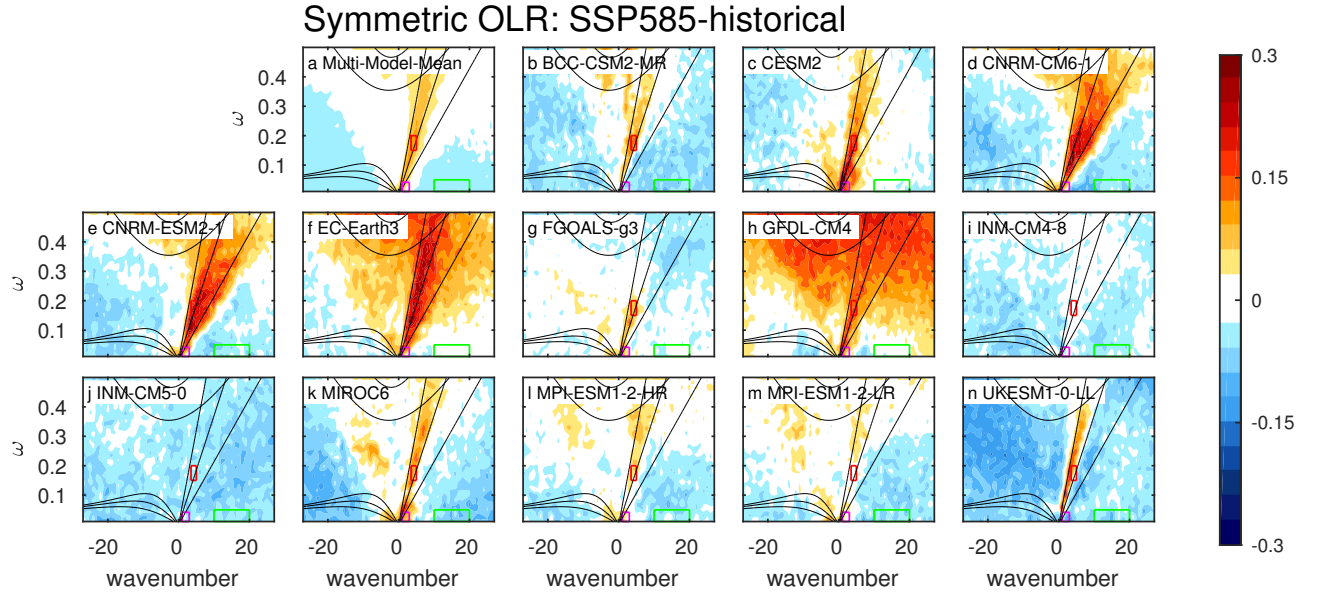


Fig. 6 Difference between the ω - k power spectra (log-scaled) of the SSP585 projection and historical simulation for the symmetric component of raw OLR $(W/m^2)^2 \cdot s$ data. (a) MMM, and (b-o) individual models. Contour interval is 0.05. Black lines are the dispersion curves of equatorial waves for equivalent depths of 10m, 30m and 90m. Rectangles mark the areas for the correlation graphs (Figures 5, 7, 8): green marks areas without a theoretical dry wave ($10 \leq k \leq 20$, $20 \leq T \leq 96$ days), magenta marks ω - k combinations in the vicinity of the MJO ($1 \leq k \leq 3$, $24 \leq T \leq 96$ days) and red marks ω - k combinations in the vicinity of the KW ($3.5 \leq k \leq 5$, $3.5 \leq T \leq 7$ days).

250 Figure 5a-c shows the correlations between the OLR and U250 biases in
 251 the chosen regions. The corresponding correlations between the raw data are
 252 similar (not shown). Although the OLR and U250 spectra differ in the redness
 253 of the spectra in wavenumber (i.e., the slope in k), and models with biases
 254 in the background spectra of one variable do not necessarily have a bias in
 255 the background spectra of the other (Figure 5c), there is a tight relationship
 256 between models that struggle to represent the MJO or the KW in OLR vs.
 257 those that struggle to represent them in U250 (correlation exceeding 0.85;
 258 Figure 5a,b). Out of the 13 models, two are noticeably poor: INM-CM4-8 and
 259 INM-CM5-0 (labeled as h and i). They stand out in both OLR and U250
 260 spectra, with their significantly low values for both MJO and KW, and also
 261 for the total bias (as shown in Table 2). The other models have relatively low
 262 bias for KW and MJO at U250 (less than $10^{0.2}$ or 58%). Most models also do
 263 not have a significant bias for ER (not shown).

264 3.2 Future Assessments

Symmetric Historical vs Future

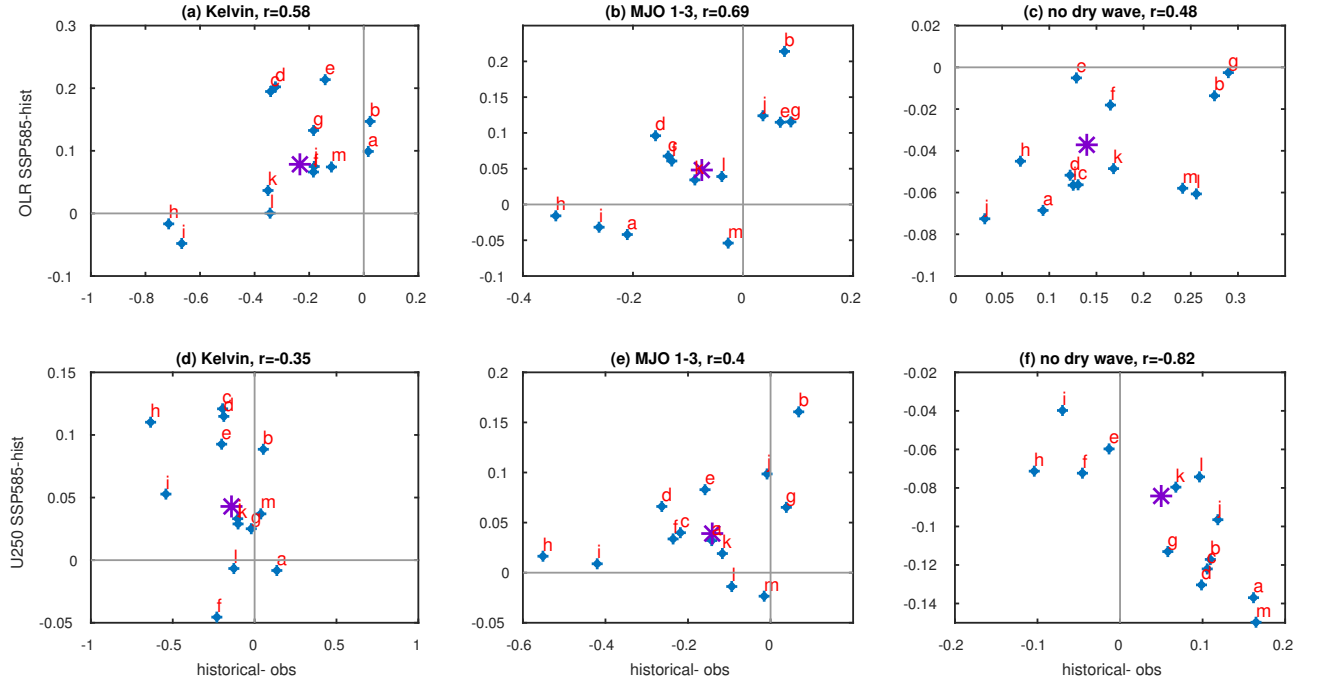


Fig. 7 Across model spread in projected changes (SSP585-historical) and historical bias of the models: (a-c) OLR, and (d-f) U250. ω - k values: (a, d) KW: $3.5 \leq k \leq 5$, $3.5 \leq T \leq 7$ days; (b, e) MJO: $1 \leq k \leq 3$, $24 \leq T \leq 96$ days; (c, f) no dry wave: $10 \leq k \leq 20$, $20 \leq T \leq 96$ days. See the boxed regions on Figure 2. Letters correspond to the labeling of the models on Table 2, and the purple star is the MMM. The correlation for each panel is indicated in its heading.

265 Section 3.1 established that most CMIP6 models (the INM models the lone
 266 exceptions) represent reasonably well the observed equatorial wave spectrum,
 267 which gives us confidence that their future projections may be of some value.
 268 We now analyze these future projections. Figure 6 presents the difference be-
 269 tween the SSP585 future projection and the historical data for the symmet-
 270 ric component of the OLR spectra (see Online Resource 2 for U250 and for
 271 SSP245). Although the models have an overall decrease in power, all models
 272 except for two (INMs) project an intensification of KW. Most of them also
 273 project an increase in KW phase speed. The MJO strengthens slightly in most
 274 models. In contrast, variability at low frequencies and high wavenumbers is
 275 projected to weaken in almost all models (FGOALS-g3 the lone exception).

276 One might expect future projections to be more reliable in models that
 277 are capable of more reasonably capturing the present climate, and hence Fig-
 278 ure 7 considers the relationship between historical biases and future changes
 279 (SSP585-historical) for both OLR and U250. While projections of KW inten-

280 sification in OLR are even more pronounced in models with smaller historical
281 biases (Figure 7a), no such effect is evident in U250 (Figure 7d): the correlation
282 of historical biases and future changes for U250 is not statistically significant at
283 the 95% level assuming each model is an independent degree of freedom. Note
284 however that the same relationship is also evident for the SSP245 projections
285 (see Online Resource 2), and if the two projections are treated as independent
286 samples then the overall negative correlation for the KW for U250 would be
287 significant. Future work with more models should revisit this apparent contra-
288 diction between OLR and U250 as to the connection between historical biases
289 and future changes for KW.

290 MJO intensification is smaller in magnitude than KW intensification (Fig-
291 ure 7b,e). While most models project an intensification in OLR, BCC-CSM2-
292 MR and UKESM1-0-LL project a weakening. In addition, U250 changes are
293 smaller in most models than in OLR, though in most individual models and the
294 MMM there is a slight strengthening even for U250. Also, models with larger
295 biases in their historical representation of the MJO (i.e. the MJO is too weak)
296 tend to simulate little future change (BCC-CSM2-MR, CNRM, FGOALS-g3,
297 INM, MPI, UKESM1-0-LL), while models with smaller historical biases tend
298 to simulate a future intensification of the MJO (CESM2, EC-Earth3, GFDL-
299 CM4, MIROC6; Figure 7b,e). Finally, changes in ER for wavenumbers less
300 than 5 are not robust for both OLR and U250, however for larger wavenum-
301 bers ER activity is projected to decrease in all models.

302 Next, we consider whether models with bigger changes in U250 also simu-
303 late bigger changes in OLR. Figure 5d-f contrasts projected changes in OLR
304 and U250, with the correlation across models shown for each panel. Models
305 simulating a future strengthening of the MJO as measured by OLR also project
306 a future strengthening in U250 (Figure 5e), a connection that mirrors the re-
307 lationship between historical biases (Figure 5b). Further, the strengthening of
308 the MJO in OLR is, for most models, somewhat stronger than the strengthen-
309 ing for U250, consistent with the models considered by Maloney et al (2019)
310 (see their figure 2) and with theoretical expectations that the MJO related
311 precipitation strengthens more than the MJO related mass flux. For the KW,
312 on the other hand, there is little relationship between models simulating a
313 stronger future change in OLR to those simulating a stronger future change
314 in U250 (Figure 5d). This might be partially due to differences in projected
315 KW phase speeds, and partially because of the INM models, which stand out
316 again.

317 All models show a decrease in total power in U250 (Table 2) in the SSP585
318 scenario, and all models except for one simulate a similar decrease in SSP245
319 (EC-Earth3). They all project a decrease in power in the background, at least
320 to some extent, and an increase of power in low wavenumbers (mostly eastward,
321 but also westward). In OLR, however, four models have an increase in total
322 power (CNRM, EC-Earth3 and GFDL-CM4). Those models project the most
323 intensification of KW and higher frequencies in the spectra. Still, they all
324 project some decrease in at least lower-frequency-background (see Figure 6).
325 As evident in Figures 6 and 7c,f, all models project at least some decrease in

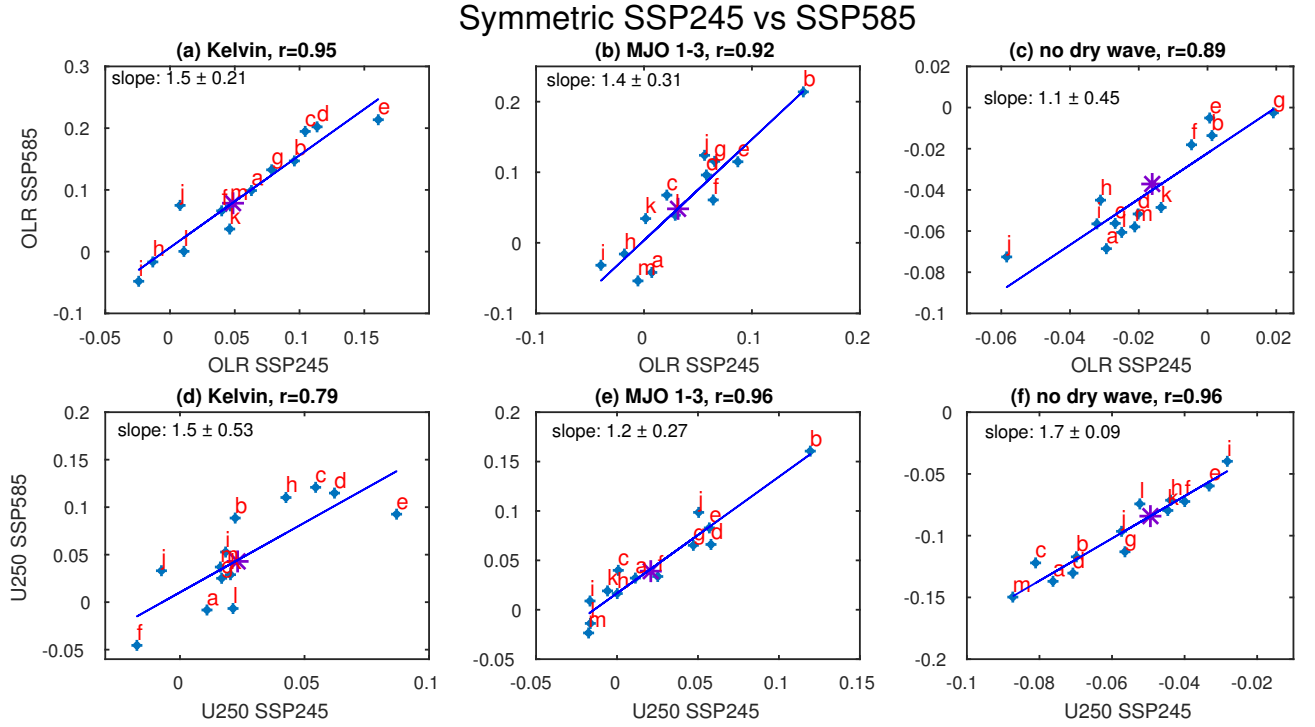


Fig. 8 Across model spread in future projected changes for the SSP245 and SSP585 scenarios: (a-c) OLR, and (d-f) U250. ω - k values: (a, d) KW: $3.5 \leq k \leq 5$, $3.5 \leq T \leq 7$ days; (b, e) MJO: $1 \leq k \leq 3$, $24 \leq T \leq 96$ days; (c, f) no dry wave: $10 \leq k \leq 20$, $20 \leq T \leq 96$ days. See the boxed regions on Figure 2. Letters correspond to the labeling of the models on Table 2, and the purple star is the MMM. A best-fit line and its slope, including 95% confidence intervals, are shown for each panel. The correlation for each panel is indicated in its heading.

326 background power in both OLR and U250, though there is little relationship
 327 between the magnitude of future reductions in the background in U250 vs
 328 OLR (Figure 5f). A weakening in the background power is to be expected
 329 if the background is driven by turbulent transfer from small-scale convection:
 330 total mass transport in the tropics is expected to weaken under climate change
 331 due to energetic constraints (Allan et al, 2020; Held and Soden, 2006), and this
 332 mass transport occurs within convective cells. Models with too-strong variance
 333 in U250 in their historical background spectrum tend to simulate a stronger
 334 weakening (Figure 7f), however this effect is not evident for OLR (Figure 7c).

335 Are the changes projected in SSP245 and in SSP585 linear, e.g. is the
 336 KW intensification in the SSP585 scenario approximately double that in the
 337 SSP245 scenario? We consider this by contrasting projected changes in SSP245
 338 vs. SSP585 in Figure 8 for each model. It is evident that there is a strong con-
 339 nection between the future projections, and a model with a stronger response

340 for SSP245 also simulates a stronger response for SSP585. The correlation be-
341 tween future projections in SSP245 and in SSP585 is above 0.85 in almost all
342 regions (Figure 8). Both OLR and U250 KW have a slope of 1.5 (Figure 8a,d),
343 OLR MJO has a slope of 1.4 (Figure 8b) and U250 background has a slope
344 of 1.7 (Figure 8f). Those slopes are somewhat proportional to the respective
345 forcings. However, the slopes for U250 MJO and OLR background are not pro-
346 portional with the underlying forcing (just 1.2 and 1.1 respectively; Figure
347 8e,c), though the reduction in the slope as compared to the other panels is not
348 statistically significant. The connection of these slopes to the radiative forcings
349 and changes in convective mass transport in SSP245 vs SSP585 should be a
350 subject for future research.

351 4 Summary and Discussion

352 Assessing future change of the MJO and CCEWs is important both for their
353 local tropical influence and their teleconnections to the extratropics. In this
354 study we analyzed simulations of the MJO, KW and ER in 13 CMIP6 models,
355 for U250 and OLR and three scenarios.

356 We began by considering whether these models realistically simulate the
357 tropical wave spectrum in their historical simulations. While the spectra of
358 U250 and OLR differ in the background spectrum, for the ω - k combinations
359 of the wave-modes, models' performance for the historical simulation in, e.g.,
360 U250 is robustly related to performance in OLR. For both U250 and OLR,
361 most models underestimate the power associated with the MJO and KW, and
362 overestimate the power associated with ER. The KW bias is most significant,
363 and it is not always simulated at a realistic phase speed. On the other hand,
364 ER biases are generally small.

365 Out of the thirteen models, two (INM-CM4-8, INM-CM5-0) are noticeably
366 poorer than the rest. This is probably due to their outdated convection scheme,
367 which appears to have not been materially updated since the 1980s (Volodin
368 et al, 2017). Seven other models can be compared to their earlier versions con-
369 tributed to CMIP3, as analyzed by Lin et al (2006) (CESM2, CNRM-CM6-1,
370 CNRM-ESM2-1, GFDL-CM4, MIROC6, MPI-ESM1-2-HR and MPI-ESM1-
371 2-LR). During the past years, the models have been improved in different
372 ways, including various aspects of their atmospheric component: radiation,
373 aerosols, resolution and microphysics. The convection schemes of all of those
374 models have received much attention and were improved significantly, mostly
375 between CMIP5 and CMIP6 (except for MIROC, which shows significantly
376 better results already in CMIP5), and it is known that CCEWs are particu-
377 larly sensitive to the convective scheme (Frierson et al, 2011). As suggested
378 in section 3.1, the latest versions of the models perform significantly better
379 than their earlier versions, to the extent that they are comparable to observa-
380 tions. Further details and references about the models are available in Online
381 Resource 1.

382 After establishing that most models qualitatively, if not quantitatively,
383 resemble observations we examined the future projections for SSP245 and
384 SSP585 scenarios. We focused on the SSP585 scenario, which has more signifi-
385 cant change, though results are generally similar for SSP245. Eleven out of the
386 thirteen models project a clear intensification of KW relative to their historical
387 simulation. The other two are the poorer-performing INM models. In addition
388 to the intensification of KW, the models project that KW phase speeds will
389 also increase, in accordance with the stabilization of the tropics and enhanced
390 warming aloft which will lead to a larger gross moist stability (GMS) and
391 hence deeper equivalent depths (Frierson et al, 2011). In contrast, the back-
392 ground spectra for essentially all ω -k values and for larger-wavenumber ER is
393 projected to weaken. Projected changes in the ER for small wavenumbers are
394 less pronounced.

395 The MJO strengthens slightly in the MMM and crucially also in U250 in
396 models which simulate a more realistic MJO in the historical climate. This
397 projection appears to stand in contrast to other studies indicating a weak
398 change in the zonal winds of the MJO, especially compared to the significant
399 projected increase in precipitation (Jiang et al, 2020; Maloney et al, 2019;
400 Chang et al, 2015). Furthermore, the gap between the MJO and KW grows
401 as the KW shifts to higher phase speeds, and the background spectrum in
402 the vicinity of the MJO weakens. The net effect is a more organized tropical
403 circulation on intraseasonal timescales that may affect other phenomena in,
404 say, the extratropics.

405 These results support previous work that has found that the MJO will
406 strengthen due to enhanced frictional moisture convergence, nonlinear wind-
407 induced surface heat exchange, and vertical advection of moist static energy
408 (Jiang et al, 2020; Maloney et al, 2019; Arnold et al, 2015; Liu et al, 2013).
409 This previous work focused more on the MJO than the KW, however we find
410 the KW intensification to be more robust. Future work should consider why
411 these mechanisms act to preferentially intensify the KW more than the MJO,
412 and why they do not act to intensify other modes such as inertia-gravity waves
413 or equatorial Rossby waves. One possible mechanism is that the strengthening
414 of the subtropical jet in response to climate change leads to more eastward
415 propagating subtropical wave-modes as compared to westward. To the extent
416 that Kelvin waves are excited by subtropical variability propagating into the
417 tropics, this should lead to more KW at the expense of other wave-modes.
418 Ongoing work is aimed at testing this hypothesis, and results will be reported
419 in a future publication.

420 Nevertheless, this projected strengthening is not uniformly simulated by
421 all models nor are changes in SSP245 vs. SSP585 proportional to the underly-
422 ing radiative forcing, and more detailed investigation is needed into how the
423 structure of the MJO (e.g., amplitude, regions of growth/decay) will change.
424 Moreover, further work should examine more closely the band between the
425 MJO and KW, especially regarding different interpretations of the power spec-
426 trum (Garfinkel et al, 2021; Roundy, 2020b). In addition, future work should
427 investigate whether this relative strengthening of the power of the MJO may

428 affect its influence on the extratropics and potentially lead to improved fore-
429 cast abilities.

5 Statements and Declarations

All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation and data were provided by Jian Rao and Ofer Shamir. Ofer Shamir began the data analysis, and Hagar Bartana performed most of the data analysis. Chaim Garfinkel oversaw the project. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Hagar Bartana and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. C. I. G. and H. B. are supported by the ISF-NSFC joint research program (grant No.3259/19) and by the European Research Council starting grant under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (Grant Agreement 677756). Jian Rao is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (42175069). The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

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